



## Town of Boylston Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: **Monday, April 30, 2007**  
Location: Town Hall, 221 Main Street  
Time: 6:40PM – 9:19PM  
Members Present: Chairman James Stanton, Ken Sydow, Roger Deal  
Others Present: Suzanne Olsen, Town Administrator; Michael Kane, *Banner* Reporter;  
Lori Esposito, Administrative Assistant; Dennis Pojani, Town  
Moderator; Sandy Bourassa, Town Clerk; others as listed on sign-in  
sheet

The meeting was a televised Town Meeting Warrant review and was called to order at 6:40pm.

**Last Call/Grace Period Policy:** New policy for alcoholic licenses reviewed, Attorney Angelini to make minor changes.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review:** Chairman Stanton opened the meeting stating the purpose is to review and discuss articles before the May 7<sup>th</sup> town meeting.

- First 3 articles in “Special Town Meeting Warrant” deal with FY07 issues; this makes it ‘cleaner’ for the Town Accountant, D.O.R. and Town Clerk for reporting. Many other towns follow this practice, and Boylston has adopted it effective this year.
- Town Moderator Dennis Pojani noted article #42 is a ballot vote for 5/14/07. At the town meeting, he’ll begin with #1-11 as repetitive, routine articles to be voted on as a unit, unless there’s an objection.
- Jim Stanton noted articles 39-41 are budget and override questions. He plans to motion at the meeting to advance these to immediately follow #1-11. He has received multiple requests and concerns re: these articles being placed last.
- Articles 12-18 were read with no discussion.
- Sue Olsen noted articles 19 and 20 are compensation schedules with 3% increase from last year. She will make an amendment at the meeting re: Treasurer/Collector position from part time to full time (error in warrant). Also, new firefighter position should be added.
- Articles 21-24 are transfers from the ambulance reserve account to cover various expenses. Chief Flanagan pointed out that article #24 for \$6K is town portion of \$100K grant to install exhaust filters at the Fire Station to keep soot and CO<sub>2</sub> out.
- Article # 25: \$130K for Municipal Office Building HVAC repair / upgrade on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Sue Olsen noted this is part of an ongoing process to upgrade the building; also, need to repair since system currently down and we need to keep MCJTC tenants.
- Article #26: \$150K for DPW garage stabilization fund. New DPW garage likely to be on Fall meeting warrant, or next May’s annual meeting. Eric Brose (Finance Committee Chair) says it’s important to put aside whatever funds are available for future expenses.
- Article #27: \$15K for grant writer. This is ‘seed’ money for a consultant to focus on commercial and tax-based development grants potentially available.
- Article #28: \$25K for Rte. 140 traffic study (from 70/140 up to Shrewsbury line) to help support the Planning Board’s efforts in setting conditions for incoming business. Jim Stanton noted traffic study questions continually com during new business going in along Rte. 140. Sue Olsen feels it’s important that this article passes in order to assist with future development and relief of property taxes. Ken Sydow says it will also help with safety issues and traffic on 140.
- Article #29: \$15K for study / committee to look at alternatives to Tahanto Regional agreement. Berlin already has this process underway. Jim Stanton noted the

approximately \$300K of new money the town receives each year for new growth is split between the school and general government. Included in the town government budget are some school expenses, such as insurance, etc. This \$300K won't ever keep up with what schools request yearly for an increase. This committee / study will give options. Eric Brose says school budgets have outpaced general government in the past year or so.

- Jim Stanton noted articles #25-33 are transfers from free cash.
- Articles #30-34 were read with no further discussion.
- Article #35 was explained by Mr. Stanton; the Board of Selectmen wants to change the eligibility requirement for senior citizen tax relief under M.G.L. Ch. 59 sec. 5, clause 41a. It would change the minimum household income from \$20K to \$40K, allowing more senior residents to take advantage of property tax relief by deferring taxes.
- Article #36: general bylaw change – “housekeeping” article.
- Article #37: amend zoning bylaws for Rte 140 property (Donahue), near 290 on right side. A company (Rand/Whitney) wants to build warehouse, but corner of building would be in watershed protection, and would not be able to be used.
  - Richard Baker (Planning Board Chair): a Planning Board public hearing was held on 4/23, no one attended or raised objection; Planning Board voted to recommend approval. The board feels it makes sense from a land –use perspective; the watershed protection zone is redundant since wellhead protection zone applied. No valid reason to keep it.
    - Fire Chief Flanagan toured the existing facility in Worcester, and it was very organized and clean.
    - Moderator Pojani noted this article will need a 2/3 vote to pass.
    - Theresa Prunier (Water District) says the Water District has concerns about changing watershed protection. Mr. Baker explained that the wellhead protection overlay was mandated by the D.E.P. Before the boundaries were determined, zoning was changed to watershed protection on a parcel-to-parcel basis. When wellhead protection passed, watershed protection was on parcels that did not have wellhead protection, which overrides watershed. Use of the land is not being changed, and the developer will apply for a special permit to conform to wellhead protection. Ms. Prunier says there was no communication with the Water District before it was put on the warrant. Mr. Stanton says the Board received a request from the property owner and developer shortly before the warrant went to print. He apologized for not meeting with the Water District.
    - Ms. Prunier says she is concerned about being out of conformance with the DEP. Mr. Baker says no geologic data was used to draw the boundary lines in the beginning. Also, Rte. 140 on the opposite side of this parcel had the watershed protection lifted when zoned commercial and the Water District had no objections then.
- Article #38: M.G.L. 40A amendment to allow alternates or associate members to substitute if a member misses a meeting and it would not affect the member's ability to vote. Richard Baker noted the only objection was from ZBA Chair (Mr. Filsinger) re: wording change. Planning Board voted to recommend, but Mr. Filsinger may not support it due to language being changed from what he originally submitted. Ken Sydow noted the ZBA will be meeting prior to next week's meeting to vote. Mr. Baker asked if the ZBA votes not to recommend, would the Board of Selectmen still present the article at the Annual Meeting? Yes.
  - Moderator Pojani wanted to clarify if this is an amendment to a zoning bylaw; Mr. Baker responded yes. The warrant indicates general bylaw; if a zoning bylaw change, a 2/3 vote would be needed.
- Article #39: FY08 budget. Eric Brose (Finance Committee Chair) noted the budget has been reformatted, and did not print correctly in the warrant. Center column needs to be disregarded. Also noted:

- Budget includes 3-year budget override; asking for the entire amount, but it won't all be spent in the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- Rebecca Dono-Healy (School Committee) outlined the 3-year budget phase:

<b>ELEMENTARY</b>		Tax Impact per yr.
FY08	\$451,227	.56/\$1000 on taxes
FY09	\$195,297	.24/\$1000 on taxes
FY10	\$40,024	.05/\$1000 on taxes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$686,548</b>	<b>.85/\$1000</b>

<b>TAHANTO</b>		Tax Impact per yr.
FY08	\$303,624	.38/\$1000 on taxes
FY09	\$283,299	.35/\$1000 on taxes
FY10	\$146,007	.18/\$1000 on taxes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$732,930</b>	

- Carol Bryngelson (Tahanto Principal) said no new staff or programs were added in the past 6 years. The override would allow hiring a new math teacher that would meet all levels to be taught, including AP math classes. Also would need to hire SPED teacher, due to 21 incoming SPED students. New books are needed as well.
- Ms. Dono-Healy said Tahanto has a high rate (85-90%) of students passing the MCAS, but only 65% of incoming students are passing the math MCAS, and will need to be brought up to the level of balance of students.
- Sue Olsen questioned what the tax increase per \$1000 of value would be in the coming year. Jim Stanton estimated a cumulative impact of \$1.76/\$1000 at the end of 3 years, phased in at .56 + .38 first year, and so on. This year would be .94/\$1000. Ms. Dono-Healy said "all things being equal", there won't be a need to ask for another increase in the next 3 years.
- John Roy (School Finance Director) asked if articles 40 and 41 are needed if FY08 budget already includes \$\$ amount. Jim Stanton said we still need to review with the D.O.R. and their attorney again, since articles were formatted with D.O.R.'s input. Will make sure it's correct before next week.

Jim Stanton asked if there were any other questions from the audience; there were none.

Moderator Dennis Pojani expressed concern about taking articles 39-41 out of order. There could be an issue with maintaining a quorum; the bylaws say moderator can consider the request, so he will review with Town Counsel Angelini.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Esposito  
Administrative Assistant